

Washington **Rotary** Club



October 15, 2024



**Location: Meeting House, Bradford
House Museum**

Club President Kathy Sabol opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, Member Stacey Till offered the invocation.

Presentation: Tom Northrop - Pottery and Me

We went out of our typical meeting "order" and our Special Presenter, Member Tom Northrop, presented on Pottery at the start of the meeting so that he could make an important appointment later in the day.

Tom talked with us about how he got started as a Pottery Artist and in teaching others the art of Pottery. In the early 2000, he was involved in a conference where participants were invited to create a "personal strategic plan" – like you would for a business or organization but applied to your personal life. Participants were instructed to write everything you've ever wanted to be and then a process of paring that list of activities to what you could somewhat realistically achieve in your current state of life and pursue that. One of the things Tom had written down that could be pared down from his exhaustive list, was to be a sculptor. In 2002, Tom's Mother gifted family members with a Christmas gift for them to use on funding something – not groceries, not for paying bills.

Tom and his wife Peggy (who was an art major in college and who is a tremendously talented artist in her own right) used that gift to take a night class in hand-building pottery.

Tom showed the Club a series of pictures of his art. Starting with his first work, a Lincoln figure. He showed us pictures of amazing pottery figures, vases and vessels he has created and talked about the process for each. He continues to take lessons a couple times a year and also does a lot of exploring pottery on YouTube, watching videos of how other artists achieve a piece and then attempts to apply what he has seen to his own art. He is not afraid to experiment and try new techniques and new things.

One thing Tom shared with our club that could be applied to any aspect of our lives is that success does not lead to progress. We learn a lot from our mistakes.

Tom showed pictures of a garbage can kiln he has constructed and detailed adding combustible "ingredients" such as used coffee grounds, sawdust, even banana peels, which when pottery is "fired" in, create varying finishes to the pottery. He has a studio in the basement of his home and spoke of excellent Clay suppliers nearby in Carnegie (Standard Ceramics).

Tom teaches pottery classes to mainly adult learners (as young as 11 and as old as 87). He has taught beginner and intermediate classes. He has had many students return for a second course with him.

For the past 5 or 6 years, Tom and his spouse Peggy have attended the John C. Campbell Folk Art School to continue to hone their artistic skills. This is a camp in the Danish folk art model where Tom has in recent years been able to take animal sculpture classes.

Tom is creating a special pottery project for the Washington Hospital Foundation of Pottery Bell ornaments which will be shared with supporters of the Foundation.

He enjoys mixing his own glazes for pottery and talked about some of the mishaps and fragile nature of creating pottery which might not survive a kiln firing.

Creating Pottery requires the participants to live in the moment, you must be very present in the activity – an art of mindfulness. Teaching others requires this mindfulness at an entirely different level. You are teaching students where to put their hands, their body, their head, even their nose.

Tom has found engaging in this art form to be very relaxing.

New Member Inducted today: Kelly Proudfit

Kelly Proudfit Kelly Proudfit who has been the Executive Director at the Washington Area Humane Society for the past 8 years and who is involved in many endeavors to strengthen our community.

Tom D. provided the induction ceremony to Kelly and described Rotary's commitment to the high calling of "service above self". Tom emphasized that at any Rotary Club around the world, you could attend a meeting and would be welcomed.

Traci Liberatore was Kelly's sponsor. Remember that the only way someone joins Rotary is by being asked. So ask!

Kelly spoke of being a 20-year resident of Washington County, having moved her with her spouse William Proudfit, after growing up in the Chicago area. She believes in "giving back" to the community and is honored to join Rotary.

Kathy introduced Tom's sister Lucy Northrop Corwin who is attending the meeting today in support of Tom (she ran Tom's power point while he was speaking. Lucy was a former President of the Waynesburg Rotary Club.

Upcoming Opportunities to Volunteer:

- Glass Recycling we are still in need of an additional volunteer for 10/19 to work alongside John Hopper.
- Fern is heading up another roadside clean up at the Jessup Exit. Meet at the park n ride at the exit at 7:45 a.m. for a donut and to pick up supplies for cleanup. Clean up from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. Please reach out to Fern if you are planning on attending to ensure that she is still doing this cleanup day.
- Kathy also mentioned that our club will be in need of donations of candy to be passed out at upcoming trunk or treat event at the Trolley Museum. Donations can be dropped off at the Wash Co Bar Association.
- Next Club Social: Monday, 10/28/24 at the Kopper Kettle on Route 40 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Don your best Halloween hat/dress up/wear orange.

Upcoming meeting adjustments.

- Our meeting on 11/5 will be cancelled so individuals can go vote or work the polls!
- The 12/3 meeting will be moved to 12/4 for the upcoming District President meeting hosted by Canonsburg Rotary Club. Time and Location still TBD.
- Our 12/17 meeting will not be during the day but will be held in the evening for our holiday party. Time and location TBD.
- Kathy Sabol detailed that our One World application was accepted and we will be getting a team from the Ukraine of 6 (5 and 1 translator) from 3/7-3/15/25. We will need 5 members to serve as hosts families. This team will be working with a focus on peace building and conflict resolution. While they are here, we are hoping to erect a Peace Pole at the pavilion at the Farmers Market pavilion. Kathy is working to obtain an official Peace Pole through Rotary International.

Happy Dollars:

- John T: Happy dollars for the upcoming Washington Symphony concerts this weekend, spooky music, "to die for". Tickets available.
- Tracie L: Happy Dollars for the upcoming fun fall event at the Bradford House, Campfire Stories (with a Pirate), Thursday night 6 pm and 8 pm. Tickets available at the door.
- Whiskey Rebellion Dinner coming up soon – November 8th where they will be celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the festival. And also, happy for Kelly Proudfit joining today.
- Kelly P announced that on 10/29 from 5:30-7 p.m. there will be a Reverse Trick or Treat Event at the Washington Area Humane Society where families can come for fun activities and bring treats for the dogs and cats who are awaiting adoption at the Humane Society Shelter on Rt. 136.
- Mike Sears: Happy dollars to celebrate the arrival this weekend of his made to his specifications Chevy Corvette (for his 70th birthday which he celebrated this past August) which he and his spouse will be traveling to Bowling Green, Kentucky to pick up on Saturday.
- Kathy Sabol: Happy to report a piece of mail that the Bar Association sent out in 2013 was returned undeliverable to the WashCo Bar Association this week! More than 10 years after it was sent.
- Next Meeting: November 19th at the Meeting House, Presenter: Jessica Tennant from the United Way of Washington County.

The meeting was closed with the 4-way test.

Club Leaders

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[Lars Lange](#)

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Speakers

Birthdays



[Robert K. Wicker](#)

October 28th



[Thomas P. Northrop](#)

October 29th



[Angeline Anyango East](#)

October 30th



[Steven R. Arnowitz](#)

October 31st



[Megan Hegedus](#)

November 5th